

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

BEVERLY TILLMAN,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	NO. 3:11cv30122-MAP
	)	
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,	)	
Commissioner of Social	)	
Security Administration,	)	
Defendant.	)	

STIPULATION AS TO ATTORNEY'S FEES

Now come the parties, by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, hereby stipulate and agree to a lump sum payment of said fees in the amount of \$7,174.80. The plaintiff waives any claim for costs.

Pursuant to an assignment agreement, the plaintiff has requested that these EAJA fees be paid directly to her attorney, Santina Sciaba-Douglas. The United States Supreme Court recently held that EAJA fees are payable to the prevailing party, not the prevailing party's attorney. See Astrue v. Ratliff, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010). Additionally, the Supreme Court held that such fees are subject to offset, under the Treasury Offset Program, to satisfy any preexisting debt that the prevailing party might owe to the federal government. Id. As a convenience to Attorney Sciaba-Douglas, the Commissioner will accept the EAJA fee assignment in this case and pay the fees directly to Attorney Sciaba-Douglas if the defendant determines, at the time of

approval of this Stipulation, that the plaintiff owes no debt to the federal government that would require offset of those fees.

Respectfully submitted,

CARMEN M. ORTIZ  
United States Attorney

/s/ Santina Sciaba-Douglas  
SANTINA SCIABA-DOUGLAS  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Center f/ Public Representation  
22 Green Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 586-6024

By:  
/s/ Karen L. Goodwin  
KAREN L. GOODWIN  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
300 State Street, Suite 230  
Springfield, MA 01105  
(413) 785-0235

THE FOREGOING STIPULATION IS HEREBY APPROVED THIS 20<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF March, 2012. SO ORDERED.

Michael A. Ponsor  
MICHAEL A. PONSOR  
U.S. District Court Judge